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*Life of Charles Carroll of Carrollton.* By Lewis A. Leonard. (New York: Moffat Yard and company, 1918. 313 p. \$2.50 net)

The best chapters in this volume are those which deal with Carroll as a staunch supporter of Washington during the war of independence, as the adviser of Franklin in the matter of effecting an alliance with France, and as the dominating force in promoting the cause of the revolution in Maryland. The author cites opinions that but for Carroll Washington would have been removed from the post of commander-in-chief. He tells how Carroll, a Catholic and acquainted with Frenchmen of influence, was qualified to prepare Franklin for his mission to France, and adds: "Dr. Franklin did the work . . . on lines laid out by Carroll and supported by Washington." As the political leader of Maryland Carroll seems to have sided with the radicals in the first continental congress in support of the Massachusetts idea and subsequently he was chiefly instrumental in securing the passage by the Maryland convention of a resolution favoring a declaration of independence.

Few of the author's more important theses, however, are well supported by concrete facts and the value of the volume is further impaired by excessive eulogy and by comparisons in which one of the objects is well known and much liked while the other is little known but much disliked. The character of the author's knowledge and views of colonial Maryland may be seen from a few of his sentences: "It was the fascination of this government as well as its liberality that caused settlers from all directions to flock to the province" (p. 25). "He [the lord proprietor] . . . was the source of all power, and the maker of all laws. No one, not even the King had to be consulted in the management of the Province and its people" (p. 25). "He [the lord proprietor] was always diplomatic and frequently had his own way by seeming to let the Council and Assembly have theirs" (p. 35). "Just as you trace the Puritan strain in New England, the Huguenot in New York, the Quaker element in Pennsylvania, the Cavalier tone in Virginia and the Carolinas, so you find the ideals and traditions of the Irish predominating in old Maryland. And these traditions were of the most lofty that human nature, as then developed, was capable of enjoying" (p. 30).

NEWTON D. MERENESS

*Pictures of Illinois one hundred years ago.* Edited by Milo Milton Quaife, superintendent of the State historical society of Wisconsin. (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley and sons company, 1918. 186 p.)

The centennial year offered a fitting occasion for the Lakeside press in its annual volume to offer this group of accounts descriptive of Illinois when it came into statehood. For the purpose the editor, Mr.

Quaife, has selected three of the most picturesque and entertaining sketches available, and has given them appropriate setting in his excellent historical introduction.

The first sketch is an extract from the *Notes on a journey from the coast of Virginia to the territory of Illinois* written by Morris Birkbeck, one of the founders of the famous English settlement at Albion; it gives the impressions of this enterprising and intelligent English farmer on his first visit to Illinois in 1817. The wide popularity Birkbeck's book enjoyed in its day is easy to understand even from this fragment, for it has a lure beyond and above its historical interest. As for its value as an historical document, its explicit record makes perhaps as close an approach to repetition of actual experience as is ever possible.

Following Birkbeck's picture of the prairies and woods comes a sketch from the pen of another Englishman, William Newnham Blane. Blane's visit to Illinois was only part of a longer journey, the story of which was published as *An excursion through the United States and Canada, during the years 1822-1823*. The principal event of his sojourn in Illinois was his visit to the English settlement, and his account furnishes an illuminating complement to the Birkbeck narrative by showing the progress made during five years. Inasmuch as the English settlement was after all unique, however, the fact that Blane's description of it was written after the lapse of several years weakens its value as a "picture of Illinois in 1818"; in a number of other instances, too, the author makes observations that he would scarcely have made in the earlier year. The description of traveling conditions and a wealth of interesting details, however, are accurate enough for the Illinois of 1818.

For the final sketch the editor has levied upon Henry Schoolcraft's *Travels in the central portions of the Mississippi valley*; the portion printed recounts the journey of the author from the mouth of the Illinois river to Chicago, whither he went to attend the negotiations with the Indians which resulted in the treaty of 1821. It pictures the valley of the Illinois "in the closing years of its wilderness existence," and recounts a typical example of the white men's dealings with the red men, whose doom was already sealed when Illinois became a state. The conditions pictured are essentially as true for 1818 as for 1821, the year which is actually dealt with.

To say that the volume is the product of the Donnelley press is testimony enough that its craftsmanship is of a high order. The publishers may indeed consider it proof of the stability and permanent value of their school of apprentices, which is responsible for the Lakeside classics, that even under the strain and abnormalities of war time this volume has come forth a creditable addition to the series.

LEILA W. TILTON